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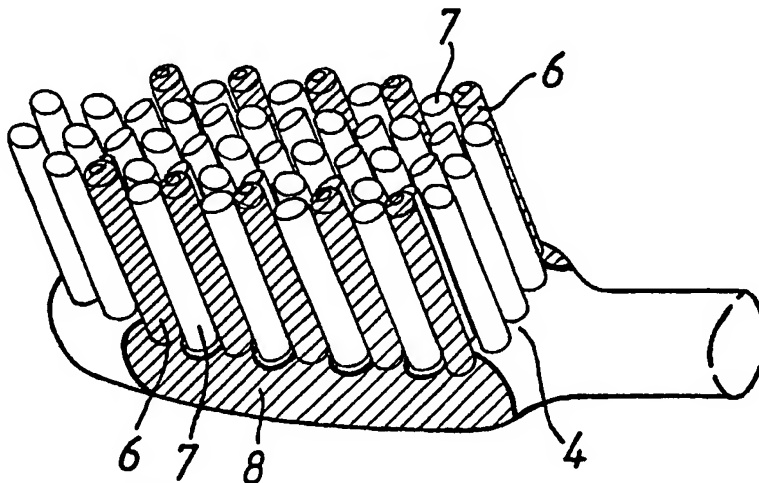
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A TOOTHBRUSH



(57) Abstract: The toothbrush of the present invention comprises an elongated handle having a head attached to one end. The head has a bristle-bearing face having longitudinal perimeter portions adjacent longitudinal edges and at least two perimetric, elastomeric massaging elements alternately arranged with groups of bristle tufts along each of the longitudinal perimeter portions. The brush can comprise further massaging elements which are not located along the longitudinal perimeter portions though the use of such additional elements is preferably minimised. The perimetric massaging elements have rotational symmetry through an angle of 120° or less, preferably being circular. The cross-sectional area proportion of elastomeric massaging elements to bristles on the brush head is less than 25 %. Alternately there are four or fewer elastomeric massaging elements which are not perimetric massaging elements. A brush with both bristles and gum massaging elements arranged as set out above provides both cleaning and gum massaging benefits without creating an undesirable aesthetic impression derived from the use of rubber-like materials in the part of the brush head traditionally comprising only bristles.

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PCT/US 00/15901

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A46B A46D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 360 766 A (MARINO ANTONIO) 28 March 1990 (1990-03-28) cited in the application column 1, line 61 -column 2, line 23; figures ----	1-13
A	US 2 129 082 A (BYRER) 6 September 1938 (1938-09-06) column 1, line 52 -column 2, line 18; figures ----	1-13
A	FR 920 155 A (MUNCH) 21 April 1947 (1947-04-21) page 1, line 46 -page 2, line 9; figures ----	1-13
A,P	FR 2 773 961 A (SYNTHELABO) 30 July 1999 (1999-07-30) page 3, line 22 -page 8, line 21; figures ----- -/--	1-13

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>US 5 836 033 A (BERGE HARALD)</p> <p>17 November 1998 (1998-11-17)</p> <p>-----</p>	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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